

Dr. Peterson

Panasonic Innovation Center Opening

9:30-11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 2, 2012

Thank you Hans. On behalf of Georgia Tech, let me add my welcome to Panasonic. We are thrilled to have the Panasonic Automotive Innovation Center in Tech Square. When Panasonic was considering opening the center on the Tech campus, we collaborated with state and local economic development organizations, including the Metro Atlanta Chamber, as well as working closely with Panasonic officials to identify research and education opportunities to support the company's objectives. The more opportunities we identified, the more we realized it was a great fit.

Although the center has just been here a few months, we have already benefitted from numerous interactions between Panasonic and Georgia Tech's faculty, staff, and students, as well as EI2, Georgia Tech's primary business outreach organization.

This new incubator for next generation automotive infotainment technologies is a shining example of the innovation ecosystem that we are working together to create. Technology Square has become a high-energy hub, bringing together needed resources, expertise, and opportunities for collaboration that creates an exciting environment for innovation to flourish. The Centergy Building is home to about 40 start-up companies, as well as numerous established ones. It is home to Tech's Institute for People and Technology, or IPAT. You can almost feel the energy in the building. Across the street is the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business, and Tech's School of Interactive Computing is nearby in the Tech Square Research Building.

I think there is no comparison to the energy that comes from working with students. At Georgia Tech we're preparing innovators and leaders, and Panasonic is providing them with meaningful on-the-job experiences. Interaction with students is just one example. When they announced the Panasonic Innovation Center in May, Panasonic said that they plan to have at least 15 co-op positions. Panasonic benefits from

having access to students and graduates from one of the nation's top research universities. And who better than students to provide their ideas in the development of the next generation of in-vehicle multimedia infotainment systems? That's something that Tech students can really get excited about.

We congratulate Panasonic, but the real congratulations go to the city of Atlanta, and the region. We have an outstanding company in our midst that is helping us to become an even stronger hub of innovation, creating jobs and stimulating the economy. We look forward to an ever-growing partnership with Panasonic. Thank you.